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OSD FOR ISA/KOREA LTC FINNEGAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/10/2016  
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SUBJECT: UPDATE ON RESTRICTING ROK ARMS SALES TO VENEZUELA

REF: A) STATE 18378 B) SEOUL 00432 C) EAP/K 2/7 EMAIL

Classified By: POL M/C Joseph Y. Yun. Reasons 1.4 (b,d).

(S) Following up Ref B discussion, on February 9, Pol-Mil Chief raised our concerns regarding arms transfers to Venezuela with Director Kim Jung-sup of MND International Defense Policy Division and Director Park Dong-won of MOFAT South America Division. Both officials undertook to facilitate a careful ROK interagency consideration of the USG's request as soon as possible, but indicated that it would take some time for the ROKG to coordinate a decision. Director Park inquired whether the U.S. had approached other countries on the matter and what their initial reactions were, saying other countries' position would be a factor in the ROKG's decision-making. In response, Pol-Mil Chief shared the information in Ref C and undertook to provide a more complete answer if possible.  
VERSHBOW